

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINFO

UNCLWS USDEL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDIRA SECTO 10133

DEPARTMENT PASS NSCE FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECRETARY
KISSINGER BEFORE MEETING AT MAAMURA ON AUGUST 26, 1975

Q: PLEASE DR KISSINGER, HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THE AGREEMENT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE PRESIDENT AND I WILL HAVE TO HAVE
DISCUSSIONS, AND WE MADE SOME PROGRESS YESTERDAY, AND WE MADE
SOME DURING THE DAY.

Q: MR PRESIDENT, HAVE YOU REACHED THE POINT YOU MENTIONED
YESTERDAY, THE CERTAIN POINT WHEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TELL
US ANYTHING?

PRESIDENT SADAT: NOT YET, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED
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ANYTHING AFTER THE SECRETARY ARRIVED. NOT YET.

Q: IS IT NOW A QUESTION ONLY OF MINOR DETAILS?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, ARE YOU ASKING ME?

Q: YES SIR.

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL I TOLD YOU, I DID NOT DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH THE SECRETARY UP TO THIS MOMENT. YOU KNOW HE HAS JUST ARRIVED.

Q: MR SECRETARY, HOW DO YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL I THINK THERE ARE SOME ISSUES THAT REMAIN TO BE SETTLED, AND I WOULD NOT CALL THEM SIMPLY MINOR DETAILS.

Q: MR SECRETARY, THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN SOME QUARTERS AS 90 PERCENT COMPLETE. WOULD YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: BEFORE I LEFT I SAID IF IT FAILED IT WILL FAIL A HUNDRED PERCENT, SO IF IT FAILS IN THE LAST 5 PERCENT OR THE FIRST FIVE, IT IS -- (LAUGHTER). I THINK WE HAVE MADE VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS, AND WE ARE IN THE PHASE WHERE THE NUANCES MATTER A GREAT DEAL.

Q: PRESIDENT SADAT, WHEN DO YOU THINK THE AGREEMENT COULD BE INITIATED?

PRESIDENT SADAT: AGAIN, I MUST DISCUSS THE LAST JOURNEY OF DR KISSINGER WITH HIM, BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING.

Q: WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR DR KISSINGER TO BRING FROM JERUSALEM, SIR?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: FOR WHAT HE HAS TOLD YOU -- THESE ITEMS AND THOSE MATTERS OF VARIOUS IMPORTANCE.

Q: DR KISSINGER, ARE YOU STILL HOPEFUL TO BE ABLE TO GET TO NEW YORK AND COMPLETE THE INITIALING BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESS?
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SECRETARY KISSINGER: YES, I STILL HOPE TO GO THERE.

Q: HAVE YOU REACHED THE DRAFTING STAGE, AND HOW MANY MORE TRIPS YOU EXPECT TO MAKE HERE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL IT IS ALWAYS SO PLEASANT HERE THAT THE INCENTIVE IS TO COME BACK VERY OFTEN (LAUGHTER).

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR COMMENTS ON REPORTS FROM ISRAEL ABOUT MR ALLEN GIVING ALL THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I DO NOT KNOW THAT PARTICULAR COMMENT, AND THEY ARE SO MANY THAT I CANNOT REACT TO ALL OF THEM.

Q: DO YOU GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN SPILLING THE BEANS AND HARMING THE CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: NO, I THINK BOTH SIES HAVE MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

Q: PRESIDENT SADAT, THOSE OF US WHO HAVE JUST COME FROM JERUSALEM WITH THE SECRETARY, HAVE THE FEELING THAT IN JERUSALEM THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF OPTIMISM, THAT IN FACT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED, DO YOU SHARE THAT OPTISMISM SIR?

PRESIDENT SADAT: THAT IS WHAT I HEARD JUST BEFORE THE SECRETARY ARRIVED, THAT SOMETHING HAS BEEN BROADCAST FROM THERE, BUT AS I TOLD YOU, I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED ANYTHING WITH THE SECRETARY UP TO THE MOMENT.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT EMERGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY, SIR, THAT COULD IN FACT LEAD TO A BREAKDOWN OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVING COME SOR FAR?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I FEAR, BECAUSE WE WERE IN ASWNA -- ABOUT TO BE ON THE EVE OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT -- AND THEN THE LAST MOMENT IT HAPPENED WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT THAT TIME. SO LET US WAIT.

Q: WHY IS THIS AGREEMENT GOOD FOR EGYPT AND FOR THE ARAB
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WORLD AT LARGE?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, IT IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR THE ARAB WORLD OR FOR EGYPT, BUT IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE. WHAT WE ARE TRYING NOW TO DO IS THIS -- THE MISSION OF THE SECRETARY LAST MARCH, WAS TO DIFFUSE THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION HERE. WELL IF THIS SUCCEEDS, THIS WILL MEAN THE DIFFUSION OF THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. THEN IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE, NOT ONLY THE ARABS OR THE ISRAELIS.

Q: IS IT ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF TERRITORY?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WE SHALL BE REGAINING OUR TERRITORY, BUT WHAT WE ARE AFTER IS PEACE.

Q: MR PRESIDENT, ARE YOU CONFIDENT THAT THIS AGREEMENT, AS IT NOW IS CONSTITUTED, WILL LINK TO AN AGREEMENT ON GOLAN, THE WEST BANK AND THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIANS?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, I SHALL BE HOPING THAT PROGRESS ON ALL THE FRONTS MUST TAKE PLACE.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT. THIS SPECIFIC AGREEMENT WILL ACTUALLY LINK ITSELF TO THOSE QUESTIONS, OR WILL IT JUST BE A QUESTION OF MOVING FROM THIS AGREEMENT TO OTHER AGREEMENTS?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED IN THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

Q: MR PRESIDENT, THE AGREEMENT AS I UNDERSTAND IT WILL CALL FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE UN FORCE IN THE BUFFER ZONE. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF ISRAEL WERE SUSPENDED FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, LET US WAIT TILL IT IS SUSPENDED, -- IF SHE IS GOING TO BE SUSPENDED -- AND WE SHALL ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

Q: WILL EGYPT VOTE FOR A SUSPENSION?

PRESIDENT SADAT: I SAID LET US WAIT. WE HAVE SAID OUR OPINION
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ABOUT THIS IN THE KEMPALA CONFERENCE.

Q: AND WILL THAT OPINION ALSO HOLD FOR LIMA, THE KAMPALA JUDGMENT?

PRESIDENT SADAT: WELL, IT IS A STAND FROM EGYPT -- IT IS A STAND FROM EGYPT BEFORE KAMPALA EVEN CONVENED.

Q: THANK YOU.
KISSINGER

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